Application No.: 10/008553 Docket No.: MWS-009RCE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-4, 8, 11-16, 18, 20-21 and 23- 47. Please amend claims 5, 9, 17, 19 and 22 as follows:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) In an electronic device interfaced with a display surface, a method, comprising the steps of:

providing two electronic diagrams, said electronic diagrams having blocks representing components of a system;

determining corresponding features of said electronic diagrams that are present in both of said electronic diagrams;

determining differences between said electronic diagrams;

categorizing said differences between said two electronic diagrams as functional differences and graphical differences, said functional differences controlling the performance of a system represented by said electronic diagram, said graphical differences affecting the appearance of said electronic diagram displayed to a user;

copying all of said functional differences from said selected one of said two electronic diagrams;

copying less than all of said graphical differences from said selected one of said two electronic diagrams; and

inserting the copied functional differences and graphical differences into corresponding sections of said other electronic diagram, said copied functional and graphical differences being inserted in the corresponding sections of said other electronic diagram.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, comprising the further steps of:

cascading hierarchically the replacement of data elements in said other electronic diagram wherein said data elements being replaced are arranged in a tree structure, said tree structure having parent data elements with child data elements attached thereto, said child data elements in said other electronic diagram being replaced when said parent data element is

replaced.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, comprising the further steps of:

cascading hierarchically the replacement of data elements in said other electronic diagram, wherein said data elements being replaced are arranged in a tree structure, said tree structure having parent data elements with child data elements attached thereto, said child data elements of corresponding parent data elements in said two electronic diagrams being replaced without replacing the corresponding parent data element.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) In an electronic device interfaced with a display surface, a method, comprising the steps of:

providing two electronic diagrams, said electronic diagrams having blocks representing components of a system;

determining corresponding features of said electronic diagrams that are present in both of said electronic diagrams;

determining differences between said electronic diagrams; ~~and~~

programmatically merging differences copied from a selected one of said two electronic diagrams into the other of said electronic diagrams at a corresponding location in said other electronic diagram;

determining a distance on said display surface from an endpoint of a line to an updated connection point for a block in said other electronic diagram, said updated connection point being the connection point of a said line and said block following a merge operation;

comparing said distance to a pre-defined parameter, said pre-defined parameter being a distance value; and

extending said displayed line to said updated connection point when said distance is less than said pre-defined parameter.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, comprising the further step of:

replacing said line with a new line drawn to said updated connection point when said distance is at least as large as said pre-defined parameter.

11-14. (Cancelled).

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) In an electronic device, a method, comprising the steps of: ~~The method of claim 15, comprising the further steps of:~~

providing two state diagrams of a system, said state diagrams having blocks joined with lines, each of said blocks representing states in a system, said lines representing transitions between said states, said transitions taking place upon the occurrence of a specified event;

determining corresponding features of said state diagrams that are present in both of said state diagrams;

determining differences between said state diagrams, wherein the determining of differences includes categorizing said corresponding features as functional features and graphical features, said functional features controlling the performance of the system represented by said state diagram, said graphical features affecting the appearance of said state diagram displayed to a user,; and determining differences in said functional features and said graphical features of said state diagrams;

enabling a user to select one or more of said differences;

merging the one or more differences selected by the user from a selected one of said state diagrams into the other of said state diagrams, said merging step including the step of copying said selected one or more differences from the selected one of said state diagrams and inserting said selected one or more differences in said other state diagram, wherein the step of copying includes copying all of said differences in functional features from said selected one of said state diagrams and copying less than all of said differences in graphical features from said selected one of said state diagrams; and

inserting the copied functional feature differences and graphical feature differences into corresponding sections of said other state diagram, said copied differences replacing the corresponding section of said other state diagram.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) In a network that includes an electronic device, said electronic device interfaced with a display surface, a method, comprising the steps of: ~~The method of claim 18, comprising the further steps of:~~

retrieving over said network two electronic diagrams, said electronic diagrams having blocks joined with lines and including at least one semantic connection, said semantic connection associating components within the same system in said electronic diagram without a direct connection in said diagram between the components, each of said blocks including connection points where said lines join said blocks;

displaying said electronic diagrams to a user on said display surface;

determining corresponding features of said electronic diagrams that are present in both of said electronic diagrams;

determining differences between said electronic diagrams, said differences being recorded as a list of data elements, wherein said determining of differences includes categorizing said differences between said electronic diagrams as functional differences and graphical differences, said functional differences controlling the performance of the system represented by said electronic diagram, said graphical differences affecting the appearance of said block diagram displayed to a user;

enabling a user to select one or more of said differences;

merging the one or more differences selected by the user from a selected one of said electronic diagrams into the other of said electronic diagrams, said merging step including the step of copying said selected one or more differences from the selected one of said electronic diagrams and inserting said selected one or more differences in the other of said electronic diagrams, wherein the step of copying includes copying all of said functional differences from selected one of said two electronic diagrams and copying less than all of said graphical differences from said other electronic diagram; and

inserting the copied functional differences and graphical differences into corresponding sections of said other electronic diagram, said copied graphical and functional differences replacing data elements in the corresponding section of said other electronic diagram.

20-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) In an electronic device interfaced with a display surface, a medium holding computer-executable instructions for a method, said method comprising the steps of: ~~The medium of claim 20 wherein said method comprises the further step of:~~

providing two electronic diagrams, said electronic diagrams having blocks representing components of a system, said blocks connected by lines;

determining corresponding features of said electronic diagrams that are present in both of said electronic diagrams;

determining differences between said electronic diagrams, wherein the determining of differences includes categorizing said differences between said two electronic diagrams as functional differences and graphical differences, said functional differences controlling the performance of a system represented by said electronic diagram, said graphical differences affecting the appearance of said electronic diagram displayed to a user;

enabling a user to select one or more of said differences;

programmatically merging the one or more differences selected by the user by copying said selected one or more differences from a selected one of said two electronic diagrams into the other of said electronic diagrams at a corresponding location in said other electronic diagram, wherein the step of copying includes copying all of said functional differences from said selected one of said two electronic diagrams and copying less than all of said graphical differences from said selected one of said two electronic diagrams; and

inserting the copied functional differences and graphical differences into corresponding sections of said other electronic diagram, said copied functional and graphical differences being inserted in the corresponding section of said other electronic diagram.

23-47 (Cancelled).